ATTORNEYS DENY CHARGE -S-1 5/11/67

Probe Figures' Lawyers Paid by CIA, Says DA

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison charged today the United States Central Intelligence Agency is paying lawyers who represent key figures in his Kennedy death plot investigation.

Answering reporters' questions outside the Orleans Parish Grand Jury room early this afternoon, Garrison declared:

"Naturally, they are paying lawyers involved. There's no question about that."

REFERRING TO New Orleans attorney Burton Klein, who represents a one-time roommate of key assassination probe figure David W. Ferrie, Garrison asserted:

"We have reason to believe that Mr. Klein has recently been to Washington, D. C."

Klein said in response to the DA's statement:

"I emphatically deny the statement made by Mr. Garrison that I contacted the CIA or spoke to anyone acting for that organization.

"There is no basis in fact for the statement. I am disappointed and amazed that Mr. Garrison would have uttered such an irresponsible remark.

"I AM ANSWERING the statement because I have no intention of permitting Mr. Garrison to cloud the fact that a member of his staff attempted to bribe Mr. (Alvin) Beauboeuf. The evidence is irrefutable.

"I am equally amazed that he has not contacted me so that I may give him the opportunity of reviewing the evidence."

Concerning Steven Plotkin, who represents fugitive witness Gordon Novel, now fighting extradition at Columbus, Ohio, the DA said:

"We know that Mr. Plotkin has been receiving money, if only through an intermediary, from the CIA."

REACHED BY A reporter, Plotkin replied: "I have never received any money from the CIA or from any known agent of the CIA."

Garrison referred to Sandra Moffett McMaines, another witness he wants for testimony in the case, and said:

"We know that Sandra Moffett, up in Iowa, who has no money, is represented by the chairman of a 13-state regional Democratic organization."

Mrs. McMaines is the girl who star Garrison witness Perry Russo of Baton Rouge has said he took to a party at Ferrie's house the night he overheard Kennedy's assassination planned.

SHE HAS DENIED being there.

"There's no question in our

(Turn to Page 4, Column 4)

Continued from Front Page

minds what's happening," Garrison told newsmen. "This is because we're making progress. If we weren't you'd hear nothing but silence."

Mrs. McMaines is represented at Des Moines, where she recently moved from Omaha, Neb., by Lex Hawkins, a former chairman of the Iowa Democratic Executive and currently leader of the Midwest Democratic Chairman's Association.

GARRISON HAS CHARGED that Mrs. McMaines moved from Nebraska to Iowa, a state which does not honor the interstate material witness compact, for the purpose of eluding her return for testimony here.

Garrison delivered his comments as the grand jury continued to question the author of a book which attacks the credibility of the Warren Commission report on the shooting of Kennedy and Texas Gov. John Connally.

Author Ray Marcus of Los Angeles stepped behind the closed doors of the jury room at 9 a. m., carrying a package which appeared to contain photographic enlargements.

HE WAS JOINED later by Asst. DA Alvin Oser, who brought jurors a blownup picture of Dealey Plaza, the scene of the Kennedy shooting at Dallas. Both remained closeted with the jury early this afternoon.

Marcus' book, "The Bastard Bullet," contends that a projectile found on the floor of Dallas' Parkland Hospital could not have struck either the late President or the Texas chief executive.

Asked by a States-Item reporter if he would talk to the jury about the assassination bullet, Marcus replied:

"I have a number of other things to discuss."

Marcus was one of two controversial authors who have been questioned by grand jurors this week. Both Marcus and Mark Lane, writer of the best-selling book, "Rush to Judgment," were in the jury room yesterday afternoon.

AS THE JURY met, reworked extradition papers were on their way to the Texas attorney general as Garrison's office renewed its attempts to return Sergio Arcacha Smith here for questioning.

Meanwhile, Asst. DA James Alcock said similar action was imminent to return another witness, Gordon Novel, from Ohio.

Arcacha is charged with conspiracy to burglarize an explosives dump at Houma in August, 1961.

BOTH ARCACHA and Novel are wanted by Garrison as key witnesses in the DA's Kennedy death plot investigation.

The DA's office has accused Arcacha and Novel of conspiring with another principal figure in the inquiry, the late David W. Ferrie, to steal munitions from the oil well service company's bunker in Terrebonne Parish.

Arcacha is free on $1,500 bond at Dallas, and Novel is awaiting an extradition hearing at Columbus under $10,000 bail. Both men are fighting attempts to return them here for questioning before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

EXTRADITION PAPERS were sent to the governors of Texas and Ohio in both cases. In each case, the extradition requests were returned to correct what authorities described as technical imperfections.

Presumably, Garrison wants to question both men about their association with Ferrie and their activities on behalf of militant anti-Castro organizations in New Orleans.

Arcacha was leader of the Cuban Democratic Revolutionary Front in New Orleans, and Novel has described himself to friends and associates as an operative of the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency. He has denied the role publicly.

Ferrie is one of three men Garrison has accused of plotting the late President's murder. The others are Lee Harvey Oswald—the man the Warren Commission named as Kennedy's lone assassin—and 54-year-old Clay L. Shaw of New Orleans.

SHAW HAS BEEN indicted in the alleged presidential assassination conspiracy and is free on $10,000 bond awaiting trial. He has staunchly denied complicity in the presidential slaying and pleaded innocent to the formal charges.

Early this week, Garrison accused the CIA and the Federal Bureau of Investigation of participating in a massive coverup of what he says are the true circumstances surrounding Kennedy's death. He charged the two agencies with duping the Warren Commission and flooding the investigators with a mass of irrelevant information.

Yesterday, an attorney for one of Ferrie's former roommates called a news conference and said he has turned over to Jefferson Parish authorities a tape recording of what he described as an attempt to bribe his client, Alvin Beaubouef.

Burton Klein, representing Beaubouef, said his client was offered $3,000 and a job if he would "help substantiate the alleged plot" against Kennedy.

KLEIN SAID Beaubouef had signed an affidavit denying the bribery attempt "because of threats and coercion."

The affidavit, signed by Beaubouef on April 12, has been forwarded to the Ethics and Grievances Committee of the State Bar Association by Garrison.

A story about the alleged bribe attempt appeared in a national magazine this week, and Garrison contends the story and its supporting tape were offered for sale by still another lawyer who repesented Beaubouef. In his April 12 statement, Beaubouef said a lawyer suggested to him that the tape could be sold.

Asked for comment, Garrison declared: "It's not worth commenting on. The only important thing is the truth."

Garrison walked to the grand jury room from his office shortly before noon. On the way, he was asked to comment about the article on Beauboeuf which appeared this week in Newsweek magazine. Garrison replied:

"Who owns Newsweek? The Washington Post. What is the Washington Post? One of the main mouthpieces of high offices in Washington. It's an administration paper."

In answer to other questions, the DA said he could not "say at this time" whether his office will be successful in returning Arcacha and Novel here for questioning.